Contents

	Acknowledgements	vii
	Note on transcription	ix
	List of abbreviations	x
1	Introduction	1
	Nazism and the mandates: approaches to the subject	
	and research questions 2	
	Parties, public, and the civic order: the historical	
	context of Lebanon and Syria during the interwar years 7	
2	Struggles for a new order: the rise of	
	the Nazi regime and the Levantine	
	mandates (1933–1936)	14
	Nazism in the local press: crisis, challenge,	
	and the longing for a 'New Dawn' 15	
	Approaching Nazism: local politics in	
	Beirut, Damascus, Paris, and Berlin 29	
3	Nazism and the Levant - Nazism in the	
	Levant: between treaty negotiations and	
	the Second World War (1936–1939)	46
	Mobilizing the youth and the fascist experiment 47	
	Nationalist struggles and the German option:	
	Nazi Germany as friend and foe 55	
	Echoes of Nazism in intellectual discourses:	
	community, revival, and the enemies of the nation 71	
4	Repercussions of the Second World War:	
	facing the Axis in the Levant (1939-1941)	81
	On the eve of war: echoes of German aggression in the mandates 82	
	Local politics and the conflict between Britain, Free France, and the	
	Axis: resistance, accommodation, and collaboration 89	

vi Contents

5	Nazism in retreat: the fading of an option		
	and the battle for independence (1941–1945)	103	
	Collaboration in exile, new allies, and the struggles for power 104 The search for a post-colonial order: the rise of ideology-guided politics and the German defeat 116 The international arena: Arab unity,		
	the Atlantic Charter, and the struggle against Zionism 124		
6	The Levant in May 1945: the defeat of		
	Nazism and hopes for independence	129	
7	Conclusion	134	
	Notes	142	
	Bibliography	185	
	Index	201	